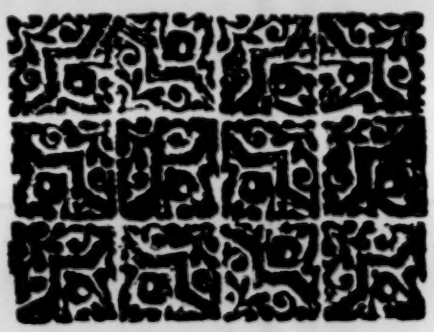
HIS MAJESTIES
DECLARATION
CONCERNING
THE TREATY,
AND
HIS DISLIKE OF THE
ARMIES PROCEEDINGS.

Delivered by His MAJESTY to one of His Servants at His departure from the Isle of VVIGHT:

AND

Commanded to be published for the satisfaction of His SUBJECTS,

Anno 1648. Charles I



London, Printed in the Yeare, 1648.

T

hung
not t
the
the
upo
the
the
an a

His Majesties

CONCERNING

The Treaty; and His Dislike of the *Armies* proceedings, &c.

When large pretences prove but the shadows of weake performances, then the greatest labours produce the smallest effects: and when a period is put to a worke of great concernment, all mens eares doe (as it were) hunger till they are satisfied in their expectations. Hath not this distracted Nation groaned a long time under the burden of tyranny and oppression? and hath not all the bloud that hath been spilt these 7 yeares been cast upon My head, who am the greatest Sufferer, though the least guilty? And was it not requisite to endeavour the stopping of that flux, which, if not stopt, will bring an absolute destruction to this Nation? And what more

ſpeedy way was there to conſummate thoſe diſtractions than by a *Perſonall Treaty*, being agreed upon by My two Houſes of Parliament, and condeſcended to by Me? And I might declare, that I conceive it had been the beſt Phyſick, had not the operation been hindred by the interpoſition of this imperious Army, who were ſo audacious as to ſtile Me in their unparalell'd *Remonſtrance, their Capitall Enemy*: but let the world judge, whether Mine endeavours have not been attended with reality in this late Treaty; and whether I was not as ready to grant, as they were to aske, and yet all this is not ſatisfaction to them that purſue their owne ambitious ends more than the welfare of a miſerable Land. Were not the dying hearts of My poor diſtreſſed People much revived with the hopes of a happineſſe from this Treaty: and how ſuddenly are they fruſtrated in their expectations! have not I formerly been condemned for yeilding too little to My two Houſes of Parliament; and ſhall I now be condemned for yeilding too much: have I not formerly been Impriſoned for making War; and ſhall I now be condemned for making Peace: have I not formerly ruled like a KING; and ſhall I now be ruled like a Slave: have I not formerly enjoyed the ſociety of My dear Wife and Children in peace and quietneſſe; and ſhall I now neither enjoy them, nor peace? have not My Subjects formerly obeyed Me; and ſhall I now be obedient to My Subjects: have I not been condemned for Evill Counſellours, and ſhall I now be condemned for having no Councell but God: Theſe are unutterable miſeries, that the more I endeavour for peace, the leſſe My endeavours are reſpected, and how ſhall I know hereafter what to grant, when your ſelves know

know not what to aske : I referre it to your conſciences, whether I have not ſatisfied your deſires in every particular ſince this Treaty; if you find I have not, then let Me beare the burden of the fault ; but if I have given you ample ſatisfaction (as I am ſure I have) then you are bound to vindicate Me from the fury of thoſe whoſe thoughts are fill'd with bloud : though they pretend zeale, yet they are but Wolves in Sheeps cloathing.

I muſt further declare, that I conceive there is nothing can more obſtruct the long hop'd-for peace of this Nation, than the il'egall proceedings of them that preſume from Servants to become Maſters, and labour to bring in Democracy, and to aboliſh Monarchy. Needs muſt the totall alteration of fundamentals be, not onely deſtructive to others, but in concluſion to themſelves ; for they that endeavour to Rule by the Sword, ſhall at laſt fall by it ; for, Faction is the Mother of Ruine ; and it is the humour of thoſe that are of this weather-cock-like diſpoſition to love nothing but mutabilities, neither will that pleaſe them but onely *pro tempore*, for too much variety doth but confound the ſenſes, and makes them ſtill hate one folly, and fall in love with another.

Time is the beſt cure for Faction : for it will at length (like a ſpreading leproſie) infect the whole body of the Kingdome, and make it ſo odious, that at laſt they will hate themſelves for love of that, and, like the Fiſh, for love of the bait, be catch'd with the hooke.

I once more declare to all My loving Subjects, and God knows whether or no this may be My laſt, that I have earneſtly laboured for peace, and that My thoughts were ſincere and abſolute, without any ſiniſter ends, and there was nothing left undone by Me that My Con-

ſcience would permit Me to doe. And I call God to witneſſe that I doe firmly conceive that the interpoſition of the Army (that cloud of malice) hath altogeather eclips'd the glory of that peace which began againe to ſhine in this Land. And let the world judge whether it be expedient for an Army to contradict the Votes of a Kingdome, endeavoring; by pretending for Lawes and Liberties, to ſubvert both. Such actions as theſe muſt produce ſtrange conſequences, and ſet open the floud-gates of ruine to overflow this Kingdome in a moment. Had this Treaty been onely Mine owne ſeeking, then they might have had fairer pretences to have ſtopt the courſe of it; but I being importun'd by My two Houſes, and they by moſt part of the Kingdome, could not but with a great deale of alacrity concurre with them in their deſires, for the performance of ſo commodious a work: and I hope by this time that the hearts and eyes of My People are opened ſo much that they playnly diſcover who are the Underminers of this Treaty.

For Mine owne part, I here proteſt before the face of Heaven, that Mine owne afflictions (though they need no addition) afflict Me not ſo much as My Peoples ſufferings: for, I know what to truſt to already, and they know not: God comfort both them and Me, and proportion our patience to our ſufferings!

And when the malice of Mine Enemies is ſpun out to the ſmalleſt thred, let them know, that I will, by the grace of God, be as contented to ſuffer, as they are active to advance My ſufferings; and Mine owne ſoule tells Me, that the time will come, when the very clouds ſhall drop downe vengeance upon the heads of thoſe that barrocado themſelves againſt the proceedings of

peace

peace: for, if God hath proclaimed a blessing to the Peace-makers, needs must the Peace-breakers draw downe curses upon their heads.

I thanke My God, I have armed My self against their fury: and now let the arrowes of their envie flie at me, I have a brest to receive them, and a heart possest with patience to sustaine them: for God is my Rock and my shield; therefore I will not feare what man can doe unto me. I will expect the worst, and if any thing happen beyond my expectation, I will give God the glory: for vaine is the help of man.

C. R.

FINIS.

M

The

The M

People of

Militia

A Propo

To th

wilhed

ment

of

Lo